

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1-15 are pending; however, claims 9-12 have been withdrawn from consideration. Accordingly, claims 1-8 and 13-15 are at issue.

Claims 1, 3-8, and 13-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Smith (U.S. Patent No. 3,991,929).

This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Smith teaches a process for preparing a 3-layer composite. The process includes:

(1) coating the inner surface of a sheath of titanium (Ti), zirconium, or tantalum (or an alloy of one of these metals) with a tinning metal or alloy; and

(2) soldering the coated sheath obtained in step (1) to another metal.

See col. 2, lines 1-13, and Examples 1 and 2 of Smith. In other words, the sheath is coated with the tinning metal or alloy before being soldered to the other metal.

In contrast, the presently claimed process includes:

(1) interposing a welding Cu material (such as a tin material) between a Ti material and a Cu material; and

(2) heating the Ti material and the Cu material to weld them together.

Smith does not disclose or suggest interposing a welding Cu material between a Ti material and a Cu material before heating (or welding).

For the foregoing reasons, Smith fails to render obvious the presently claimed process. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Smith in view of Kline (U.S. Patent No. 4,411,762).

This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

The aforementioned arguments regarding Smith also apply to this rejection.

Kline discloses a method for making an interdiffused coating of a valve metal on a conductive metal substrate (col. 3, lines 7-10). The method includes electrodepositing the valve metal onto the substrate.

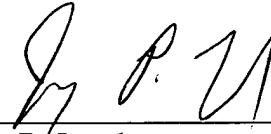
Kline does not disclose or suggest interposing a welding Cu material between a Ti material and a Cu material and then heating (or welding) the Ti material and the Cu material.

Therefore, Smith alone or in combination with Kline fails to render obvious the presently claimed process.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted



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JUN 19 2002
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